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Berrien, Van Buren, Cass and St. Joseph Counties to Benefit from Authority Loan

LANSING—Today the Michigan Broadband Development Authority (MBDA) announced it had closed on another loan to Lansing-based ACD.net that will allow the company to expand its broadband service into new territories throughout southwest Michigan. The \$1.6 million loan will help ACD.net upgrade portions of the network infrastructure and assets of Quantum Connections based in St. Joseph. This will allow deployment of new generation broadband service into 17 communities within Berrien, Van Buren, Cass and St. Joseph Counties.

Earlier this year, ACD.net received an MBDA loan to expand in several mid-Michigan communities. This new loan will be used to improve and expand service in the cities of St. Joseph, Benton Harbor, Buchanan, Cassopolis, Coloma, Dowagiac, Edwardsburg, New Buffalo, Niles, Baroda, Bridgman, Stevensville, Paw Paw, Portage, Allegan, South Haven and Centerville. ACD.net now operates in markets serving more than 66,000 residential and 5,400 business customers.

“As with our previous loan, this financing will help us provide lower prices, more robust service, and better access to customers in these targeted markets,” said Kevin Schoen, president and director of technology for ACD.net. “The employees of Quantum will contribute to the design and construction of the network as we expand broadband infrastructure in southwest Michigan. We are extremely pleased to work with them and partner once again with the MBDA.”

Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) Director, David Hollister, applauded the project as adding a new infrastructure resource for the region. “To compete in a global marketplace, communities must have state-of-the-art infrastructure and different broadband options. Affordable access is vital to a region and we are pleased that we can help a progressive company like ACD.net expand such access into this area.”

James W. Butler, III, Vice-President of the MBDA, noted the significance of the MBDA’s work in southwest Michigan. “We are excited to help infuse new resources into this region of the state. While we have been working on a number of initiatives throughout Michigan, this is the first project we’ve completed in this region and we hope it is just the start of things to come for the area.”

The MBDA was created to help the state attract more private sector investment in high-speed Internet infrastructure, and to increase demand for and utilization of broadband services. It does so by offering 1) loans to providers willing to make such investments and 2) by offering organizations or “broadband users” financing for the acquisition of hardware/software applications that will improve or increase their use of broadband service. More information about the Authority and its programs can be found at www.BroadbandAuthority.org.

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